

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3350

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASUP, PDIP, AFSP
SUBJ: DUTY FREE PRIVILEGES AND TAX LIABILITIES OF FOREIGN
SERVICE NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL

REF: STATE 183999

1. DIFFERENCES IN RECIPROCITY BETWEEN THOSE BENEFITS
OFFERED BY USG TO OFFICIAL PAKISTANI EMPLOYEES IN
WASHINGTON AND BY THE GOP TO USG EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED
ISLAMABAD THAT ADVERSELY AFFECT USG EMPLOYEES ARE AS
FOLLOWS:

A. USG EMPLOYEES, BOTH DIPLOMATIC AND NON-DIPLOMATIC,
PAY FOR AUTO LICENSE TAGS. DIPLOMATS PAY EQUIVALENT
OF DOLS3.10, AND NON-DIPLOMATS DOLS4.00. IN ADDITION, NON-
DIPLOMATS MUST PAY EQUIVALENT DOLS3.00 FOR AUTO REGIS-
TRATION AND DOLS2.00 PER SEAT OF VEHICLE ROAD TAX EACH THREE
MONTHS. A FOUR SEAT AUTO THEREFORE, COSTS A NON-DIPLOMATIC
MEMBER ROAD TAX OF DOLS32.00 PER YEAR.

B. NON-DIPLOMATIC USG EMPLOYEES MUST PAY EQUIVA-
LENT OF DOLS3.00 FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE FOR THE FIRST
YEAR AND DOLS1.00 PER YEAR THEREAFTER.

C. NON-DIPLOMATIC USG EMPLOYEES ARE NOT ENTITLED
TO REFUND OF GASOLINE TAXES, WHICH AVERAGE DOLS0.14 PER
LITRE, OR NEARLY DOLS0.55 PER GALLON.

D. NON-DIPLOMATIC USG EMPLOYEES' POV MUST REACH
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THE PORT OF ENTRY AND BE CLEARED THROUGH GOP WITHIN
THREE MONTHS OF THE EMPLOYEES'S DATE OF ARRIVAL IN
COUNTRY OR IMPORT DUTY AT THE RATE OF 250* CAN BE
LEVIED. EXTENSIONS OF UP TO THREE MONTHS HAVE BEEN
GRANTED BY GOP.

E. A NON-DIPLOMATIC USG EMPLOYEE MUST EITHER
EXPORT HIS/HER POV ON TERMINATION OF TOUR OF DUTY OR

SELL THE VEHICLE TO AN AGENCY OF THE GOP AT A DIS-
ADVANTAGEOUS PRICE.

F. DIPLOMATIC USG EMPLOYEES MAY IMPORT OR OWN
TWO POVS IN COUNTRY BUT MAY SELL ONLY ONE VEHICLE WITH
THE SECOND VEHICLE EITHER EXPORTED OR SOLD TO AN
AGENCY OF THE GOP, AGAIN AT A LESS-THAN-VALUE PRICE.

2. EMBASSY RECORDS INDICATE THE FIRST OFFICIAL APPROACH
TO THE GOP REQUESTING EQUAL TREATMENT AND RECIPROCITY
WAS IN A NOTE DATED JANUARY 28, 1975. SUBSEQUENT OFFI-
CIAL NOTES WERE SENT OCTOBER 29, 1976, MARCH 18,
APRIL 6, AND AUGUST 8, 1977. IN ADDITION, THERE HAVE
BEEN PERSONAL AND SEPARATE VISITS BY THE EMBASSY'S
DCM AND ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR TO THE GOP, MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REQUESTING THEIR IMMEDIATE ACTION
TO RESOLVE THESE INEQUITIES AND ASKING FOR THEIR
WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF ACTION THEY HAVE TAKEN IN
RESPONSE TO OUR FORMAL COMMUNICATIONS.

3. THE FINANCIAL IMPACT ON NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN
PAKISTAN IS SUBSTANTIAL IN THE CASE OF GASOLINE TAX,
ESPECIALLY, AND TO A LESSER DEGREE AS REGARDS ROAD
TAX AND INABILITY TO SELL THEIR POV ON AN EQUAL
BASIS WITH DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE
IS THE ADVERSE EFFECT THESE DISCRIMINATORY RULES HAVE
ON EMPLOYEE MORALE.
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4. THE EMBASSY IS ENCOURAGED IF REFTTEL IS AN INDICATION
THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW PREPARED TO MAKE AN EFFORT
TO GAIN BENEFITS FOR OUR NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
STATIONED IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY ARE DISAVANT-
AGED. IT WOULD BE ONLY SECOND-BEST IF THE DECISION
IS MADE TO WITHDRAW THE BENEFITS ENJOYED NOW BY THEIR
COUNTERPARTS STATIONED IN WASHINGTON.
HUMMEL

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